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P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Thingoe, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st. December 1959.

1, Northgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1959.

It has been my privilege to succeed the late Dr. R. H. Clayton M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health of this district for twenty two years. I knew Dr. Clayton as a colleague for some ten years, and I should like to pay special tribute to his sustained and successful efforts towards raising the standards of the public health throughout the district.

The year 1959, as is shown in the substance of this report, was not remarkable for any untoward occurrence concerning the public health. The outstanding feature of the vital statistics was the crude death rate, which was the lowest recorded in the district during the last forty seven years for which reliable records are available.

My thanks are due to Dr. D. A. McCracken, the County Medical Officer, who served as your Acting Medical Officer of Health for the greater part of the year under review, and to Mr. F. Holmes, your Public Health Inspector, for his support and for his help in the compilation of this report.

As a new servant of the Council I should like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the co-operation and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and from Mr. J. H. Whitfield, Mr. S. M. Casson and all the Officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant.

P. COGGIN BROWN

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

(appointed October 1959)

P. COGGIN BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments :-

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Bury St. Edmunds.

Assistant County Medical Officer	}	West Suffolk County Council.
School Medical Officer		

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

(until October 1959)

D. A. McCracken, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors.

F. HOLMES

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Hons. Diploma I.P.H. & H.

(appointed sole Public Health Inspector March 1959)
(previously Additional Public Health Inspector)

S. M. CASSON

M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.P.H.E.,

Meat and Other Foods Diploma R.S.I.

(Senior Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor)
(to March 1959. Relinquished the post of Senior Public)
(Health Inspector only.)

W. G. LEWIS

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Additional Public Health Inspector, resigned February 1959)

Clerk/Typist

N. GRAINGE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor C. J. W. Blackburne, Chairman.

Councillor The Revd. W. E. Harris, Vice-Chairman.

Councillors

Major G. K. Agnew

H. H. Cawston

F. G. Copping

A. H. Gooch

R. F. Grimwood

C. W. G. Hatten

Mrs. L. A. Hudson

F. G. Lebbon

Major S. P. L. A. Lithgow

Mrs. N. J. Smith

W. J. Tuck

J. R. Turner

N. R. Whitwell

G. W. Reeve *

Vice Admiral J. W. Rivett -

* - ex officio members

Carnac *

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS. Area 106,739 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population.	<u>1959</u> 20,110	<u>1958</u> 20,480	<u>1957</u> 20,290
Rateable Value	£156,920	£149,369	£121,876
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£617	£583	£512

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

POPULATION. The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed a reduction of 370, the figure for 1959 being 20,110.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	139	163	302
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	6	6	12
				Totals:	<u>145</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>314</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	<u>1959</u> 15.6	<u>1958</u> 16.6
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.6	18.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	16.5	16.4
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	96.2	95.3

There was a fall in the Birth Rate, but when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population (comparability factor 1.13) the figure remained appreciably above that for England and Wales.

<u>STILLBIRTHS.</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
				Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	<u>1959</u> 24.8	<u>1958</u> 14.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales	20.7	21.6

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.5	9.1
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.4	9.0
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	11.6	11.7

There was a further reduction in the Death Rate. The figure of 8.5 per 1,000 of population for the Crude Death Rate was the lowest recorded in the district during the last forty seven years for which reliable records are available. The adjusted death rate of 8.4 (comparability factor 0.99) was substantially below that for England and Wales and equalled the lowest recorded in the district in the last decade.

There was a reduction of 12 in the number of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system, and fewer deaths occurred from respiratory diseases, but there was an increase in the number caused by cancer, 5 of which were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. Seven people died from accidental causes and 2 from suicide. Once again no death was due to maternal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under 1 year					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals:					5	4	9

	1959	1958
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	28.6	35.3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales	22.0	22.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	15.9	23.5

There was a welcome and much needed reduction in the infant mortality rate, but it is to be expected that this rate will vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births. The actual number of infant deaths fell from 12 to 9, of which 5 were due to congenital malformations and 3 to prematurity. Five of the infant deaths occurred in the first week of life.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	YEAR									
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Birth Rate (Corrected)	20.6	17.3	17.7	24.8	18.5	16.8	16.7	18.8	18.8	17.6
Death Rate (Corrected)	10.0	11.3	9.8	10.0	10.1	8.4	10.4	10.4	9.0	8.4
Infant Mortality Rate	19.4	33.0	30.1	24.6	19.9	21.1	27.9	27.9	35.3	28.6
Number of Infant Deaths	6	8	8	9	6	6	8	12	12	9

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths which occurred during 1959 :-

					Registrar General's Figures			
					Male		Female	
					1959	(1958)	1959	(1958)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..		1	(-)	-	(-)
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
8. Measles	..	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	..				-	(-)	-	(-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..			5	(2)	1	(1)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..				5	(6)	-	(-)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..			-	(-)	4	(1)

					Male		Female	
					1959	(1958)	1959	(1958)
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..		-	(-)	1	(3)
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				13	(8)	7	(8)
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	-	(-)	-	(-)
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	-	(-)	-	(-)
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..			12	(14)	12	(17)
18.	Coronary disease	..	..	..	16	(21)	10	(12)
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..		2	(4)	4	(5)
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	13	(7)	13	(14)
21.	Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	4	(4)	5	(5)
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	3	(2)	-	(-)
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	2	(3)	4	(4)
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	2	(9)	1	(1)
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..			1	(-)	-	(-)
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..		-	(1)	1	(2)
27.	Gastritis	..	..	..	1	(-)	-	(1)
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	-	(2)	-	(-)
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	2	(3)	-	(-)
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	3	(-)	2	(-)
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases				5	(8)	7	(12)
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	3	(3)	2	(-)
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	-	(4)	2	(1)
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	1	(-)	1	(-)
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..		-	(-)	-	(-)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, under the directorship of Dr.R.M.Fry provides an excellent bacteriological service and most readily discusses and advises on any epidemiological or similar problem.

Dr.S.Greenburgh, Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge, gives a similar efficient, helpful service when chemical analyses are required.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. These services since July 1953 have been provided directly by the County Council under the direction of Dr.D. A.McCracken, the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) CLINICS. The West Suffolk County Council hold Infant Welfare Clinics at the following Centres in Thingoe Rural District :-

Honington	The Aerodrome	Every Tuesday
Ixworth	Village Hall	3rd.Thursday
Rougham	Village Hall	3rd.Friday
Barrow	Village Hall	4th.Friday

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor.

1. WATER SUPPLY. Samples frequently taken at all points throughout the mains system again testify to the satisfactory standard of purity being maintained. The summer was an exceptionally dry one and the demand increased substantially but at no time was there any danger of shortage of water.

Total New Connections 202.

2.(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

New Connections to Council Sewers			Cumulative Total
Private	Council	Total	1,342
x 62	41	103	

x includes Honington School.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. As forecast last year the scheme for sewerage Coney Weston and Barningham received Ministry approval and work commenced in October.

Approval was also received to the sewerage of part of the parish of Rougham and work commenced in September.

A group scheme is being prepared for the villages of Ingham, Culford, Flempton, Risby and West Stow in order to overcome the difficulties which will arise when the Borough Council abandon their West Stow Sewage Works. It is hoped that this scheme will be in an advanced stage of preparation early in 1960 ready for submission to the Minister.

The village of Fornham All Saints also relies upon the Borough main sewer and a scheme is in course of preparation for new sewers and pumping station in the village. It is hoped that these works will be put in hand in the latter part of 1960.

A further scheme being prepared for 1960 is the extension of the

Stanton sewerage to embrace the general village area. Stage I of this scheme was completed some three years ago but did not take in the main village.

It would appear that a great deal of sewerage work is likely to be carried out during the next ten years, since apart from the desirability of providing modern drainage in all villages there is likely to be considerable new building in the villages within 5 miles of Bury St. Edmunds.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL. After considerable investigation and trials with new type vehicles, a revised refuse collection scheme was brought into operation during June providing for a weekly collection in all parishes. By the use of 2 new 25 yd. Karrier rear loading vehicles it was found possible to operate the scheme without any staff increase. This was largely due to the saving in time in returning to tips during rounds, which was necessary with the smaller vehicles and also because the design of the new vehicles enabled the loaders to spend time loading refuse under much easier conditions. There is however no space left in the present rounds for any extension - vehicles and men are working to capacity and as houses are built and the standard of living conditions continues to rise it will be difficult to maintain the collections without either additional equipment or overtime.

Salvage continues to increase satisfactorily as the comparative figures for last year and this show.

Salvage Collection Income.

1958	.....	£218.	7.	7.
1959	.....	£282.	15.	10.

4.(i) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The following table shows the inspections made by Public Health Inspectors during the year.

Premises Inspected.					Total Inspections.
<u>Housing:</u>					
Condemned Properties	...	...	...	...	47
Survey and Classification	...	...	...	...	74
Defects and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	42
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	109
Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage	...	...	...	...	75
<u>Food Premises:</u>					
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	249
Butchers	...	...	...	...	13
Bakers	...	...	...	...	11
General Stores	...	...	...	...	79
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	4
Cafes and Catering Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	34
Unsound Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies	...	...	...	...	9
Schools	...	...	...	...	7
<u>Caravans:</u>					
Caravans	...	...	...	...	58
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	19
<u>Rats and Mice:</u>					
Tips	...	...	...	...	17
Sewers and Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	18
General	...	...	...	...	19
<u>Factories:</u>					
Powered Factories	...	...	...	...	24
Non-Powered Factories	...	...	...	...	4
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	4
<u>Petroleum:</u>					
Inspection of Installations (including tank tests)	...	...	...	...	187
<u>Interviews:</u>	...	...	...	...	208
<u>Infectious Diseases:</u>	...	...	...	...	65
<u>Problem Families:</u>	...	...	...	...	4
<u>Poultry Dressers:</u>	...	...	...	...	2
<u>Smoke Abatement:</u>	...	...	...	...	2
<u>Explosives:</u>	...	...	...	...	9
<u>Agricultural Properties (Safety, Health and Welfare)</u>	...	...	...	...	6
<u>Show Grounds and Fairs:</u>	...	...	...	...	6
<u>Keeping of Animals:</u>	...	...	...	...	8
<u>Water Supply:</u>	...	...	...	...	8
<u>Ponds, Pools and Ditches:</u>	...	...	...	...	23
<u>Vermineous Premises:</u>	...	...	...	...	5
<u>Other Nuisances:</u>	...	...	...	...	17
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	...	...	...	...	41

5. FACTORIES ACT. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occs. Pros.
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	10	4	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	54	24	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. * (excluding out - workers' premises).	49	7	2	Nil
Totals :	113	35	5	Nil

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section. 103 (i)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operation and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Reported		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Insufficient Sanitary (S.7)					
Conveniences (a)	2	1	Nil	1	Nil
Unsuitable or defective (b)	4	4	Nil	3	Nil
Want of cleanliness	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act not including Outworkers.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	8	5	2	4	Nil

OUTWORK.

Nature of Work.	M/c. Line No.	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(a)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.
Wearing Apparel (Making etc.)	13	3	Nil
Making boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.	34	22	Nil

Note: All Outworkers are employed as contractors.

6. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No contraventions of the Shops Acts were noted during the year insofar as the sections administered by this Council were concerned.

7. CARAVANS.

There was little variation in the total number of caravans during the year although there were some changes in the occupants and the situations of some vans. Two points however are worthy of comment:-

(i) The Itinerant Agricultural Workers. It is to be regretted that the problem caused by these people was outside the terms of reference of Sir Arton Wilson in his Report, "Caravans As Homes", (Cmnd. 872). The only action reasonably available to a Local Authority is under the Nuisance Sections but even these become unworkable because of the difficulty of obtaining correct names coupled with the fact that the occupants disappear very often temporarily to continue their disgusting habits on some other site.

(ii) Service Families. With the shortage of married quarters the use of caravans by Service families appears to grow rapidly. During the year the Council agreed to develop land as a site for some 40 such families but the Service Departments concerned appear to make little attempt to explain to service men the steps which should be taken before placing a caravan on land other than Crown Land, nor do they seem to attempt to provide sites officially. It is felt that this refusal to accept some responsibility until sufficient permanent quarters are available, puts an unreasonable burden on Local Councils and leads to considerable frustration for the service men concerned.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints were received during the year but it is pleasing to note that several persons proposing to install oil fired installations approached the Council for advice.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING PLACES.

Although there are no public swimming baths in the area there are several places used for bathing on the small rivers which cross the district. Although samples show that these waters are liable to pollution it would be impracticable to stop children from using them. It was with this fact in mind that the Council in planning a new sewage works decided to choose a site down stream of a popular lido so that this amenity would not be further prejudiced.

10. INSECT INFESTATION.

Although complaints of infestation of fleas, bugs etc., are now few, the number of wasps and flies have caused occupiers to ask for the the Council's help. The long dry summer of 1959 was ideal for the fly population and in some instances several treatments were necessary. The breeding grounds of flies i.e. fields occupied by stock, were too extensive to treat in an effective manner. Two properties infested with fleas, both occupied by elderly persons incapable of effectively dealing with the problem, were reported and these were dealt with by the Department.

11. RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent Control is still carried out by one man with a motor cycle combination. During the year four contracts were entered into with occupiers of agricultural properties. The aim is not to build up

business as such but to obtain widely separated contracts. This will enable the operator to combine regular and systematic inspection of the district with practical working at the same time reducing the rate borne cost. A free service is maintained for dwelling accommodation and business premises are charged on a time and material basis. (Details of the years work are given on page 12).

12. PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES.

As stated in last years report all tanks which had been installed for a period of ten years or more were required to submit to a pressure test and these had been completed at the end of the year. Of the 106 tanks tested, 12 failed and were either renewed or their use was discontinued. Fourteen new tanks were installed and tested during the year and 3 new licences issued. The total number of petroleum storage tanks at the 31st. December 1959 was 172 and notification was received in respect of 2 premises having can stores.

There were no new applications for licences to store explosives other than fireworks which totalled 30. The one store for gelignite was continued and re-licensed.

C O P Y

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
Report for 9 months ended 31st. Dec. 1959

Name of Local Authority ..Thingoe.R.D.C..... County .West.Suffolk...

	Type of Property.				(5) Agricult- ural.
	(1) Local Authority.	(2) Dwelling Houses.	(3) All Other Premises.	(4) Totals of Cols. 1,2,3.	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District Notes 1 & 2.	40	5,459	1,444	6,943	389
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of					
a. notification.	4	66	1	71	1
b. survey under Act.	4	535	46	585	4
c. otherwise.	32	1239	27	1,298	28
3. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections.	57	---	102	---	65
4. Number of properties inspected in Sec.2 which were found to be infested :					
a. Rats Major	--	3	--	3	--
Minor	4	84	1	89	3
b. Mice Major	--	--	--	--	--
Minor	--	11	2	13	--
5. Number of infested properties (Sec.4) treated by L.A.	4	97	3	104	3
6. Number of total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	--	--	--	--	--
7. Number of notices served under Sec.4 of the Act. a. Treatment	--	--	--	--	--
b. Structural Work.					
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice.	--	--	--	--	--
9. Legal Proceedings.	--	--	--	--	--
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out.		42			

Note 1. With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.

Note 2. (i) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Col.3.

(ii) Sowers should not be included.

(iii) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Cols. 2 and 3.

Note 3. For the purpose of completing Sections 2,4 and 5 each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

1. CLEARANCE OF UNFIT PROPERTIES.

1960 will see the end of the first five years of the Council's Slum Clearance programme, during which period the Council declared their intention to deal with 189 of the estimated 253 unfit properties in the area. In fact, 212 dwellings had been dealt with by the end of the year but many properties subject to Undertakings, Closing or Demolition Orders are still occupied, the tenants being reluctant to leave. Many of these are elderly and they feel they cannot face the move but some are far from retiring age and stress that their reason for refusing alternative accommodation is purely financial, their existing rents being less than 7s.6d. per week. It is likely to take some time to convince these people that a house with modern amenities is worth the extra weekly outlay.

In view of the apparent progress that had been made it was felt that there should be a re-assessment of the housing position in the area and a house to house survey of the whole district was commenced. By the end of the year only 74 properties had been surveyed and in view of the fact that this work can only be carried out intermittently it is likely to be 1961 at least before the survey is complete. One pleasing result of this survey has been the increased interest shown in Improvement Grants. This Council has for a long time realised the valuable contribution made by this scheme to the housing needs of the district and it is anticipated that the demand for such grants will increase thus making it economically attractive to retain some of the interesting and quaint country cottages which would otherwise be erased from the Suffolk scene.

The following is a summary of slum clearance progress during the year taken from the quarterly returns submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

How Dealt With	No. Demolished.	No. Displaced in Year	
		Persons	Families
A.			
Clearance Areas	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual Unfit Properties	21	26	9
B.			
Unfit Houses Closed	15	29	13
C.	Rendered Fit		
Public Health Act	6		
Housing Act	4		
D.			
Unfit Houses Retained For Temporary Use	3		
E.			
Purchased by Council	Nil		

2. NEW BUILDING.

The Council again reaffirmed its policy of building mainly for slum clearance and had completed 15 properties by the end of the year with 10 still under construction. This left 16 properties still to be built to complete the current years programme, the delay being due to the brick shortage. It was agreed that the 1960 programme would consist of 20 dwellings for slum clearance and 10 for general needs. Private building continues unabated and 96 dwellings were completed during the year.

3. MODERNISATION.(Council Houses)

The scheme for modernising 19 houses at Bardwell was completed and also additional schemes at Chedburgh 6; Flempton 2; Fornham All Saints 6. A start was made on 36 at New Road, Ixworth, only 3 of which were completed before the end of the year.

The total modernisations during 1959	..	..	..	26
Approved but not completed	..	..	..	33

Approval has been received from the Council to improve a further 53 in the coming 12 months.

4. OVERCROWDING.

Three new cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered during the year, 1 as a result of a Housing Application and 2 during the house to house survey. This brings the total of known cases of overcrowding at the end of the year to 5. One family from the previous known total of 4 was re-housed.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK.

All milk sold during the year was designated and no new applications for registration were received. The number of licences to use special designations issued during the year was as follows :-

Number of Principal Licences issued during the year:

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	6

Number of Supplementary Licences issued during the year:

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	6

It is pleasing to report that there were no complaints from consumers during the year and the cleanliness of bottles has shown a welcome improvement. One complaint from a farmer concerning the unsatisfactory condition of milk churns supplied from a dairy outside the County was investigated and found to be justified. Two of a consignment of 6 churns were found to be improperly cleansed. These were sealed, returned to the dairy and the officer concerned in the adjoining County was notified. He was then able to be at the dairy when the churns arrived and take the appropriate action.

A consignment of milk sent into the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds for heat treatment from a farm in the Rural District, was sampled by the Borough Public Health Department and proved positive when examined for *Brucella abortus*. A previous positive sample from the same herd had been dealt with in 1957. The facts were referred to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Once again there has been the closest co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Divisional Milk Officer and with the West Suffolk County Council Weights and Measures Department who have kindly provided copies of the laboratory reports on all samples taken within the area. No samples were taken by this Department.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Meat Inspection. Despite the fact that the Council had the services of only one Public Health Inspector for most of the year, 100% meat inspection was again achieved and it is appropriate to express here thanks for the services of the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds Public Health Inspectors and, in particular Mr. E. H. Box the Chief Public Health Inspector, who gladly agreed to carry out inspections during holiday periods.

A survey was carried out under the Slaughterhouses Act. As a result, 4 owners of slaughterhouses currently licensed were given schedules of the works necessary to bring their premises up to the standard required by the new Slaughterhouses Act and from preliminary discussions it appears likely that only two slaughterhouses will be licensed after the 31st. December 1959.

The following is a list of unfit meat surrendered and the diseases and conditions encountered :-

<u>Cattle.</u>		<u>Pigs.</u>	
Lungs, (Tuberculosis)	2	Carcass, (Fever acute)	1
Livers, (C. Angioma)	1	Liver, (Carcinoma)	1
Livers, (Distoma)	1	Liver, (Necrosis)	1
Livers, (Abscess)	4	Head, (Tuberculosis)	3
Liver, (Carcinoma)	1	Lungs, (Pneumonia)	2
Part Liver, (Necrosis)	1	Heart, (Pericarditis)	1
Part Liver, (Distoma)	4	Injury and	
Cod, (Tuberculosis)	1	Scar Tissue (part loin)	1
Part Skirt, (Peritonitis)	1		
Head/Tongue, (Actinomyces)	1		
Hind Quarters, (Osteomyelitis)	2		

The table overleaf is in the form requested in circular 17/55 :

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in
whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (All were inspected).	158	Nil	Nil	109	134	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysti. cerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	10.1%	0%	0%	0%	5.2%	0%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.8%	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	0%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Other Foods. Many businesses changed hands during the year and on each occasion the entire stock was examined, and any unsound food destroyed. This provided a good opportunity to impress on the new occupiers, some of whom have had no previous business experience, the importance of (i) keeping stock to a minimum, (ii) correct storage conditions and (iii) the importance of the maxim 'first in - first out'.

3. FOOD HYGIENE.

The number of Food Premises, by type, is as follows :-

General Stores	..	..	81
Butchers	..	..	12
Bakers	..	..	8
Sweets and Confectionery			3
Cafes	..	..	2
Fried Fish Shops		..	2

The only change in numbers concerns general stores, an increase which may continue due to the amount of development taking place in some areas.

It has not been possible to pay as much attention to food handling as one would have liked during 1959, but one fact emerged to mar the optimism expressed in last year's report. In certain instances, promises given to carry out improvements following informal discussions have not been kept and although the taking of proceedings is unpleasant it may well be necessary in the year ahead. It must be said however that the general standard continues to improve and those who have carried out improvements all testify to easier working conditions and increased business turn-over.

Minor improvements were carried out to some school canteens and several licensed premises were provided with up to date toilet facilities for both customers and staff.

4. ICE CREAM.

Five premises were registered during the year for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream bringing the total to 42. No samples were taken during the year.

5. TRAVELLING SHOPS.

No new travelling shops appeared during the year but those regularly operating maintained a reasonably satisfactory standard. In one case it was necessary to draw attention to the Food Hygiene Regulations. This concerned the placing of a cooked ham on a shelf among raw vegetables. The dangers of this practice were pointed out to the driver who claimed he was new to the business and the opportunity was taken to explain the need for hygienic handling of food for human consumption.

In December a member of the public brought a sample of ham and egg roll to the office complaining that it was unfit for food and had been sold from a travelling shop. Investigation revealed that the roll had been sliced 3 days previously and on each day had been exhibited in a window and at night placed in a refrigerator. It had not sold as quickly as expected and was put on the travelling shop to ensure quick sale.

It was felt that this had been done through ignorance rather than with intent and again the opportunity was taken to explain the dangers to the people concerned. At the same time however the proprietors of the businesses were informed that a further similar offence would result in proceedings being taken.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

					<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Measles	..	..	..	..	133	108
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	24	30
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	5
Whooping Cough		..	..	..	-	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum			..	..	1	-
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	-	-

Measles. There was a widespread outbreak of measles. Approximately one third of the 241 notified cases occurred in children under 5 years of age.

Scarlet Fever. There was a sharp increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever, many of which occurred amongst the families of Service personnel. Most of the patients were children of school age, and generally the disease was very mild in character.

Poliomyelitis. Under arrangements made by the County Medical Officer large numbers of children and young adults from the district were vaccinated against poliomyelitis at Child Welfare Centres at Ixworth, Barrow, Rougham, Honington and Bury St. Edmunds, and many were treated by their family doctors. Since the end of 1959 the eligible age group has been extended and now vaccine is available for all persons aged between 6 months and 40 years. Anyone who is still undecided whether to take advantage of this protection can be assured that the injections are practically painless and take only a few seconds to perform.

Diphtheria. In December a suspected case of diphtheria was notified, but after full bacteriological and biological investigations of cultures from this case at the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

NEW CASES and MORTALITY.

NEW CASES.

	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1951.</u>
Pulmonary	1	5	6	5	3	10	6	7	9
Non-Pulmonary	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	1	2	4	5

Ages of Cases notified in 1959 :

Pulmonary : One female 27.
Non-Pulmonary : Nil.

MORTALITY. One death occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.Cases at 1st.January 1959.	21	27	2	3	23	30
2.Notified first in 1959.	-	1	-	-	-	1
3.Restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.Added by transfers.	1	3	-	-	1	3
5.Cases removed from Register.	7	3	-	1	7	4
6.Remaining at 31st.December 1959.	15	28	2	2	17	30

